

The Sunday School.

LESSON X.—DECEMBER 9.

CHRIST TEACHING BY PARABLES—.

TEXT: Luke viii; 4-15.

TIME AND PLACE. A. D. 28, autumn, a few weeks after the last lesson. Near Capernaum, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

PERSONS. Same as those of Lesson 1, which see

LESSON PLAN.

- I. Seed by the Wayside. vs. 4, 5, 11, 12.
- II. Seed on the Rock. vs. 6, 13.
- III. Seed Among Thorns. vs. 7, 14.
- IV. Seed in Good Ground. vs. 8, 15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The seed is the word of God."—Luke, viii, 11.

In the parable of the sower there are three essential parts: The Sower, the Seed, the Soil. There is the same sower and the same seed throughout the parable. The difference is in the soil.

1. There are four kinds of soil. *The wayside, the stony ground, the thorny ground, and the good ground.*

2. There are two kinds of sowers. Those who sow good seed, and those who sow bad seed.

3. There are two kinds of seed good and bad.

Jesus himself is the great sower, but all his followers are sowers scattering the good seed of the kingdom in his name. Not only preachers, deacons, and teachers, but all of us at all times are sowing either good or evil seed. Every thought, word and deed, is a seed sown somewhere, and will yield a harvest that will make other lives more sweet, more beautiful and better. What are you sowing?

LESSON TEACHINGS.

1. Our heart is the soil in which are to grow the harvests of life and eternity.

2. The word of God is the good seed that brings forth fruit unto eternal life. It is a great privilege to hear the gospel; but we must take heed how we hear.

3. Nothing will grow in our heart but weeds and thorns and thistles of evil until it is brought under spiritual culture. We must seek the help of the Holy Spirit to prepare our heart to receive the truth.

4. We must prepare our heart by casting out everything that is contrary to the word or that hinders its fruitfulness. We must set a high value on the word, counting it more precious than silver or gold. We must hear it prayerfully and believingly. We must receive it gladly as news from heaven. Our pastors and teachers

are sowers of the good seed; it is our duty to give careful heed to their teachings.

5. When we have heard the word we should carefully watch lest some passing thought, some foolish remark, some trifling occurrence destroy the serious impression. Let not the devil take away the word out of your heart, nor the world make it unfruitful. Seek to have an honest and good heart that you may bring forth much fruit in patience.

6. As is the seed, so will the harvest be. If we sow tares, thorns or thistles, the harvest will be tares, thorns or thistles. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Be careful about the formation of bad habits. See to it that your example be not the sowing of bad seed in the hearts of your associates. Be a sower of good seed.—*Westminster Teacher.*

Book and Tract Department.

BOOK AND TRACT WORK.

IT IS NICE TO BE RIGHT.

An extract from a private letter will be appreciated by many. Speaking of a protracted meeting, our friend and brother says: "The services proceeded without any friction until the last week when I advertised that Thursday night I would preach on 'Trine Immersion'. The Disciple church came out almost in a body, headed by their preacher, to hear what 'the babler' had to say. You may imagine their consternation when I used Alex. Campbell, their own founder, as my chief and most direct authority in the line of authors. My sermon was published in 'The Globe' and I have had no reply as yet although there is a lot of cheap talk going on. It is nice, however, to know you are right."

There is no doubt in my mind about trine immersion. "Talk is cheap but it takes money to pay a lawyer." Talk is a cheap way of opposing the truth. Many people who are single immersionists, are so because of circumstances; they did the best they knew how at the time, and they should not hesitate to take that which is right. Single immersion as now practiced and sprinkling both came from Roman Catholic Rome, except the backward action which came from the English Baptist, so says Dr. Judson, the Baptist, and others who know.

The truth shall make you free but how shall the people know the truth? Preach the truth, yes! but all will not come out to hear the truth, and oftentimes those who ought to hear it, take care to stay away, how reach them?

Here comes in the work of the book and tract department. They are engaged in

sending out those silent preachers, who preach the truths, who stick to the text, who never give up. People are reached in this way who are not reached any other way and they work when we sleep. This line of work during the year should be grandly developed and more good done than we can tell. You can help.

If you are not exercising faith, read Eph. iii, 20: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us." We can ask much and think much, yet above all that we ask or think the working powers of God can give us. Read that verse again.

Some day a catalogue of tracts, pamphlets, books and Bibles will be issued, put your name in for one, then when you get it keep it, and when you want to purchase go to your own publishing house; it can do as well by you as others, and in many respects better; why should any church send her money to a strange house, when she can do just as well if not better at home. Principles not persons, religion not theories, the truth not denominations, Christ not creeds.

Did you ever buy a book? Why did you buy it? As a general thing, people buy a book for some one point. If a book agent can get a person convinced on one point there is a chance of selling a book, and if the point is well-developed the book is bought on that point alone, reference books excepted. So in scattering literature for Christ and the church, make some one point prominent and drive it in and through and clinch it on the other side. Successful preachers will tell you this is one of their methods of work; this is why short, pointed tracts are more attractive than others.

One more thing: Did you notice the quality of the paper in "The Golden Baptism." It is fine, good, first class, etc.; take up one of these slips and glide your fingers over. Good quality! I should say it was, paper and subject matter in harmony. Well, I will not press that point, but there is a point in the little tract that sticks like a tack. Some people like it, some do not; it depends on which side they stand; scatter them, you need not fear the point nor be ashamed of its make up. Before I forget it, if you have an extra copy of Doctrinal Points with Scriptural References, send me one and I will appreciate it.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

A missionary problem in Japan is a sentiment which prevails in that country: "In order to Christianize Japan we must Japanize Christianity."